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Council on Accreditation

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March 6, 2008

Cheryl S. Stephani
Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration
Washington State Department
of Social & Health Services
Office Building 2, 14th & Jefferson
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Cheryl:

I am responding to your letter of February 15, 2008 requesting that COA reconsider its decision to place the accreditation of the Children's Administration, Washington State Department of Social & Health Services' (Department) on hold.

Please note that integral to the integrity and credibility of COA's accreditation process is the continuous assessment of an agency's progress with regard to its implementation of the standards, especially those standards that are intended to protect the safety and health of children and families.

In instances when an agency has been "in process" for as long as the Department, it is both prudent and appropriate for COA to include as part of its continuous assessment a requirement that a formal commitment be provided as to when full implementation of the "foundational standards" will be achieved.

Accordingly, COA will reconsider its decision to place the Department's accreditation on hold only if it receives a written plan containing proposed completion dates for the full implementation of the following standards and a proposed schedule of interim milestones leading up to their full implementation:

1. Caseload Size: S10.7.06; S10.7.07; S14.10.05; S21.11.03; S21.11.04; S21.16.02 (treatment foster care, as applicable); and, S21.29.04.
2. Supervisor Credentials: S10.7.02; S14.10.01; and, S21.11.02.

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Cheryl S. Stephani
Assistant Secretary

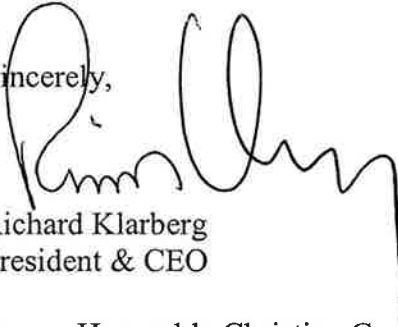
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3. Comprehensive Family Assessments: G8.2.02.
4. 30-day Visits: S21.4.02; S21.4.03 (twice monthly for special needs kids);
and, S21.8.05.
5. All Departmental Policies Related to Each of the Above.

The refusal of the Department to submit a plan as described above will call into question the genuineness of its commitment both to the full implementation of COA's standards and to the adoption of our philosophy of best practice. In view of that, I must advise you that if a proposed plan is not received by March 28, 2008, COA will immediately discontinue the Department's current accreditation process.

I look forward to receiving a plan and continuing our work on behalf of the State of Washington's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,



Richard Klarberg
President & CEO

cc: Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington
Robin Arnold-Williams, Secretary, Washington State Department
of Social & Health Services
Timothy Hunter, Accreditation Program Manager, Children's Administration,
Washington State Department of Social & Health Services